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SEE PAGE 72

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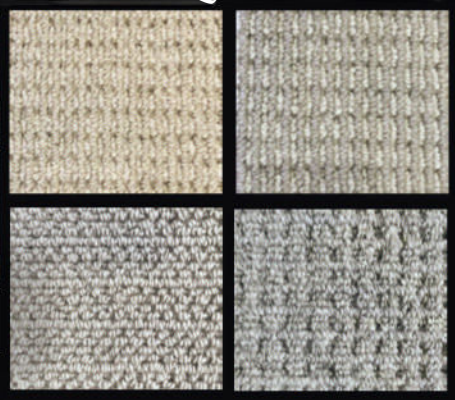

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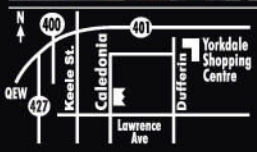

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styleathome MARCH 2016

Add a punch of colour to your living space with a bright bouquet of blooms.

HOMES

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TABLET EDITION
Get *Style at Home* for your iPad, with additional how-to video content, bonus image galleries and more. Download it on the App Store today.

ON THE COVER
Pretty pastels, delicate textures and well-chosen accessories make this living space irresistible **72**

PHOTOGRAPHY
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DECOR *diet*

My name is Erin, and I'm a spendthrift. I admit it: I've been struggling with renovation money management ever since I first decorated my bedroom at age 11.

This lack of discipline has dogged me to the point where I leave projects unfinished until I've saved the money to get to the next stage. Case in point: I planned a bathroom reno two years ago, but my dreams were beyond the scope of my budget. That didn't stop me, though. My solution was to adopt an incremental approach. I put away some cash and used it to buy the tiles I'd been coveting. To my husband's dismay, the boxes sat in the garage for more than a year while I collected other elements. When a mirror I loved went on sale, I brought it home. (Unfortunately, it was too big for the space, so it ended up in the garage, too.)

The pile of materials and accessories mushroomed until I reached an impasse. I decided to give myself six months to save enough money to finish the job. Then disaster struck in the form of Christmas – and I wasn't prepared for the budget overextension that comes with overlapping a renovation with gift shopping for a major holiday.

Surprisingly, inspiration hit me when I was looking at my dismal bank statement. I'd gift shop in my garage! After all, the bathroom reno is for everyone in the family to enjoy, so why not use that to my advantage? My 17-year-old was given a pair of beautiful antiqued-brass towel bars with a stack of fluffy new Style at Home Collection towels. My husband unwrapped a charming brass toilet paper holder. And my sister and brother-in-law are the proud new owners of the beloved mirror that didn't fit.

It's well into the new year, and my revamp still isn't complete – but it's coming along. The floor has been tiled and my husband and I are now saving for the next stage: getting the toilet installed.

While my daughters and I can't wait for the bathroom to be finally finished, I think my husband is more excited for the garage to be cleared out (until our next reno project, that is...).

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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instagram.com/styleathomeeditor

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RELEVANT **READ**

I've been getting *Style at Home* for the past five years, and January 2016 was my favourite issue ever. From the gorgeous master bathroom (Decorating 101, page 30) to the article on pieces that aren't going out of style any time soon ("Everywhere We Look," page 46), you absolutely nailed it. Thanks for continuing to produce great content your readers want to see.

KIM MORAN, ABBOTSFORD, BC

NATURAL **DISCOVERY**

I recently read through several issues of *Style at Home* and loved the ideas and inspiration each one gave me during these wintry days. I'm so happy the magazine is able to share a wealth of decor knowledge. The article "Rustic Rituals" (December 2015, page 60) is most appropriate for life here on the islands.

KATHARINE ROBINSON, DENMAN ISLAND, BC

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BRIGHT **IDEAS**

I have to say I'm *Style at Home*'s biggest fan. My daughter even mentioned the magazine in her school journal as "mom's favourite thing to do." How crazy that today I received the February 2016 Before & After issue just as the lights for our new kitchen arrived (shown below). The pendant lights are from IKEA, and I spray-painted the insides gold. I couldn't be happier with the result. Thanks again for the endless inspiration!

CHRISTINA MCKENZIE, VIA EMAIL

HOMEGROWN **PRIDE**

I am a new subscriber to *Style at Home* and really enjoy receiving the magazine each month. I love that it's Canadian and that the products and stores featured on its pages are always easily accessible. The recipes are great, too. I will definitely refer this magazine to my friends and family.

MARILYN FROST, TORONTO

RENO **REVIVAL**

I am a huge fan of your High or Low column. My husband and I just bought a new home, and we're planning how we'll decorate it. I want it to look expensive and put together without the price tag that often goes along with that. I love that through combining high-end items with low-priced pieces, you can still achieve the same look you'd get by spending twice as much. Thank you for the ideas and for making decorating our new home a less intimidating and daunting task.

MARIA THERIAULT, TORONTO

PERFECT **PAIRING**

I would like to thank Tanya Eng for creating the banana bread brownie recipe in the January 2016 issue (Dessert of the Month, page 28). While the featured recipes usually look good, I never seem to get around to trying them – until now. I made the brownies within days of receiving the magazine and yum! I'll be making them again.

CARMEN NEUFELD, VIA EMAIL

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style news

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BLUE & BRIGHT

With vibrant blue wallpaper and accessories in every shade of pink, this space has personality in spades.

PAINT PALETTE OF THE MONTH

STRONG WHITE
2001, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

Valspar **OCEAN SIGH**
5002-10A, Lowe's, lowes.ca.

SEAPORT BLUE
2060-30, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

HEIRLOOM
50RR 83/040, Dulux Paints, dulux.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, DOUGLAS GIBB; DESIGN, JESSICA BUCKLEY, JESSICABUCKLEY.CO.UK

DESIGNERS GUILD HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH BOLD FLORALS. Look for its latest – Couture Rose, an exuberant linen – at select designer fabric showrooms (such as Primavera).

bigger, bolder, better: TODAY'S FLORALS

Florals are far from new to dinnerware, but blowing them up gives them larger-than-life presence. This oversized notice-me motif is sure to bring whimsy to your tablescape, whether you pair it with timeless whites or youthful brights.

Lyla stoneware Garden Butterfly **DINNERWARE,** from $59 US per set of 4 each, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

Mix and match to your heart's content.

Samantha Pynn
CELEBRITY DECORATOR AND FORMER *STYLE AT HOME* STAFFER

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2. Toss a solid cushion (or two or three) into your mix to soften the overall appearance.

3. Size matters, so go big: at least 20" squares and 13" x 18" rectangles. (No pincushions, please!)

4. Use feather or (if you're allergic) faux-down inserts to avoid that pancake look.

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Copper-finished iron Via Marble **BOOKSHELF** with Carrara marble shelves, $1,399, CB2, cb2.ca.

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These high-end marble-look vases are worth the splurge.

IMITATION GAME

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then marble must be blushing! The recent marbleizing trend is popping up on just about everything, including these luxe vases.

Aerin ceramic Marbleized **VASES** with 18-karat gold details, from $839 each, Cocoon Furnishings, cocoonfurnishings.ca.

Vienne **DAYBED** with linen Lora fabric in Natural, $1,999, Decorium, decorium.com.

DOUBLE AGENT

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A unique serving piece for a refreshing cocktail, this tumbler will boost your bar cart game.

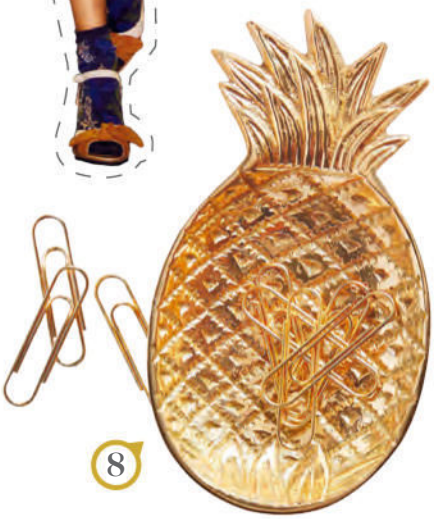
pineapples

This tropical motif gets a glamorous update in glitzy metallics. **PRODUCER** AMANDA ETTY

inspiration

Pineapples go sporty-couture in Anna Sui's spring 2016 ready-to-wear collection.

An elegant way to bring this symbol of hospitality into the kitchen.



1 I Pine for You **GREETING CARD,** $5 US, Rifle Paper Co., riflepaperco.com.

2 The Pineapple Co plated-brass Pineapple **TUMBLER** in Gold, $35 US, W&P Design, wandpdesign.com.

3 Rifle Paper Co. Pineapple **WALLPAPER** in Ebony, $190 US per double roll, Hygge & West, hyggeandwest.com.

4 Porcelain Pineapple **CANDLE** in White, $8, H&M Home, hm.com.

5 Cotton Escape Copper Pineapples **TOSS CUSHION,** $50, CB2, cb2.ca.

6 Polished-aluminum Carmen Pineapple **ICE BUCKET,** $100, CB2, cb2.ca.

7 Soludos pineapple-embroidered **SMOKING SLIPPERS** in Black, $95, Saks Fifth Avenue, saksfifthavenue.com.

8 Brass Ananas **TRINKET DISH** with paper clips, $18 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

9 Chuck's 100th Pineapple **SPATULA,** $25, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com.

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HOW TO

keep toys clean & tidy

Tips and tricks for sanitizing children's playthings and managing the clutter. **PRODUCER** MARY LEVITSKI

Though likely not eager to admit it, many parents don't wash their children's toys as often as they should. And who can blame them? These items are typically in such a state of disarray that it's easier to shut the door (or storage bin lid) and look the other way. When it comes to kids' toys, cleanliness and order go hand in hand, so find an organizing system that works for your child. Try categorizing by type of activity or colour and use written or photo labels. The key is to incorporate tidying into the daily routine in a playful yet consistent way. As a general rule, all toys should be cleaned about once a month, with additional cleansing when your child is recovering from an illness, after a play date or if a particular item has been soiled.

bottom to top

CHILD'S-EYE VIEW

Try to see things from your children's perspectives. Since kids' reach is quite restricted, arrange their best-loved toys near ground level and less popular items higher up. Also, use closed storage to keep the majority of their playthings out of sight; limiting their options will minimize the mess. Regularly rotate what's visible and hidden.

CONTAIN THE CHAOS

Creating a dedicated play space is essential to maintaining an orderly home. If you can't spare an entire room, carve out a corner of, say, your living room, delineating it with a bookshelf and rug.

DO

Check labels before purchasing new playthings; choose those that are easier to clean.

DON'T

Forget to regularly audit the playroom. Toss out broken toys and donate those in good repair that your child has outgrown.

what's your type?

WE BREAK DOWN HOW TO CLEAN TOYS BY MATERIAL.

Plastic, rubber and silicone: Most can be cleaned safely in the dishwasher on the water-only cycle. Use the top rack and corral small pieces in a mesh laundry bag.

Plush: A hand-wash with warm water and dish soap is always safe. Many polyfilled toys can handle machine washing, but follow label instructions. Between washings, remove dust with a vacuum.

Wood: Wood has antibacterial properties, so a good wipe with a clean cloth dipped in white vinegar is sufficient.

CHECK IT BEFORE YOU WRECK IT

Take extra caution when cleaning toys that feature delicate details (such as hair) or electronic components (like batteries and music boxes).

be wise: sanitize

Keep germs at bay with one of these kid-safe spray disinfectants.

DOCTOR APPROVED
A dermatologist- and pediatrician-tested formula made just for little ones.

Babyganics Fragrance-free Toy & Highchair **CLEANER,** 500 ml, $6, Bed Bath & Beyond, bedbathandbeyond.ca.

MULTI-PURPOSE
Spray toys, skin or even the air to naturally sanitize; no need to wipe dry.

Germs Away **MIST,** 120 ml, $15, Graydon, clinicalluxurybynature.com.

MADE IN CANADA
This locally made product is vegan and carcinogen-free.

Fragrance-free Toy & Surface **CLEANER,** 475 ml, $10, Attitude, attitudeliving.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY BRANDFORD

HE FIGHTS DIRTY *no matter how dirty* DIRTY IS.

NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE, TOUGH MESSES DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHEN MR. CLEAN'S MAGIC ERASER IS PART OF YOUR CLEAN ROUTINE.

WHEN IT COMES TO CLEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE Mr.

Wet before use. A rinse is required for surfaces that come in direct contact with food. Use as directed.

© 2015 P&G.

New Moon Café is known around town for its house-roasted coffee and healthy breakfast options.

cocktail pick

Plum Pudding is a home chef's wonderland.

SOUTH CAROLINA

EDITOR'S ITINERARY: Aiken

Style at Home editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin travels to this storied Southern city just in time for its prestigious annual horse show.

Number of days to spend here

2

Day 1

Check into **The Willcox (1),** a grand white-pillared 116-year-old hotel. Each of the lavishly appointed rooms boasts traditional colonial furnishings, comfy linens and luxe soaker tubs. A beautiful magnolia tree grows out front, giving shade to the rocking chairs that line the porch. Get settled in and then start your day here, relaxing and sipping coffee before enjoying a decadent brunch at the on-site restaurant. I had the Belgian waffle with mascarpone maple syrup – so, *so* good.

Plan your trip to coincide with the **Aiken Horse Show.** This April marks the 100th anniversary of the event, which takes place in the historic **Hitchcock Woods (3).** Aiken is an equestrian wonderland and has been since the 1880s, when wealthy Yankees discovered the place to have the ideal climate for riding – warm but not too hot – and thus dubbed it the Winter Colony. (You'll find that horses are, quite literally, everywhere in Aiken!) Take in the prestigious equestrian show and be sure to explore the 2,100-acre woodland studded with paths for horse and carriage rides or walking. If you're staying at The Willcox, ask the concierge to help arrange riding lessons or a horse-drawn carriage picnic in the woods. After the show, head to **Mellow Mushroom** for your fill of delicious Southern-style pizza (try the House Special) and pints of craft beer. Then have a nightcap at The Willcox's lobby bar. Sip on *The Great Gatsby*-inspired cocktails, including my favourite, **The Parisian (2):** vodka shaken with St. Germain

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL, ISTOCKPHOTO (COCKTAIL)

I travelled to Aiken with my beautiful mare, Fleur.

elderflower liqueur, cranberry juice and fresh lime.

Day 2

Sleep in and then enjoy breakfast at **New Moon Café (7).** Order the healthy and hearty **quinoa bowl (6)** and a cup of house-roasted MoonBeans coffee before embarking on a day of exploring and shopping. The café is located in downtown Aiken, which boasts treelined parkways, stately Winter Colony mansions, quaint shops and diverse restaurants. Walk the main drag, Laurens Street, where you'll find souvenir, crafts and antiques stores as well as some of the best equestrian boutiques I've ever seen, including **Equine Divine –** it has an amazing selection of jewellery and housewares. And don't miss the exclusive **Aiken china (4)** at **Plum Pudding (5),** a shop that sells high-end cooking equipment and serving pieces. In the afternoon, visit **Hopeland Gardens,** a 14-acre estate shaded under 100-year-old oak trees. The land, which belonged to Hope Iselin, "the great lady of racing" who spent winters in Aiken, was gifted to the city after her death in 1970. Head back to The Willcox and have a bite at its restaurant. The dinner menu is upscale, fresh and innovative, mixing varied worldly flavours. Finish off your meal with the pear, almond and ginger cake.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ANNE HOOVER, STACEY VAN BERKEL

Sport chic equestrian ware and you'll fit right in with Aiken's horsey culture.

what to PACK

refreshing spray

◀ The Mist **FACE MIST,** $80, La Mer, cremedelamer.ca.

woven belt

▲ The Derby On Deck **BELT,** $32 US, Hunt Club, huntclub.com.

quilted jacket

◀ Ariana Superlight **JACKET** in Orange, $150 US, Horseware Ireland, horseware.com.

perfect jeans

◀ Belvedere **JEANS** in Sorento Dark, $200, Fidelity Denim, fidelitydenim.com.

comfy boots

◀ The Foxhunt **BOOTS** in Black & Cognac, from $498 US, Poppy Barley, poppybarley.com.

chic bracelet

▶ Paloma Picasso leather and 18-karat rose gold Knot Wrap **BRACELET,** $2,650, Tiffany & Co., tiffany.ca.

weekend tote

▼ HBC Collection x Herschel Supply Novel **DUFFLE BAG,** $135, Hudson's Bay, thebay.com.

PLAN YOUR OWN TRIP

The Willcox
thewillcox.com

Aiken Horse Show
aikenhorseshow.org

Hitchcock Woods
hitchcock-woods.org

Mellow Mushroom
mellow-mushroom.com

New Moon Café
newmoon-downtown.com

Plum Pudding
plumpudding-kitchen.com

Equine Divine
equinedivine-online.com

Hopeland Gardens
803-642-7650

Move over carrot cake, there's a new treat in town. We're putting the spotlight on your cousin, *the humble sweet potato loaf,* and dressing it up with a crown of marshmallow for a satisfying, sensational, *dense and gooey* indulgence.

RECIPE & FOOD STYLING TANYA ENG

PHOTOGRAPHY MAYA VISNYEI

PROP STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

marshmallow sweet potato loaves

NOT Perfect

BUT PERFECTLY DELICIOUS.

*Okay, so your recipe didn't quite work out this time. But with **CHIPITS** baking chips and our 70 years of chocolate-making expertise on your side, your treats will still be sweet and delicious. So go ahead and fail beautifully, because even if your cookies clump together, you know everybody is still going to want one. Discover this and other inspiring recipes at hersheyskitchens.ca.*

HERSHEY'S Chipits

Bake on.

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 9 MINI LOAVES

- 4 small sweet potatoes (or 2 large)
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 9 large marshmallows

DIRECTIONS

Pierce the sweet potatoes a few times with a fork or knife. Place the potatoes in a microwave-safe dish and cook on high until the flesh is fork-tender, 10 to 15 minutes, flipping once halfway through cooking time. Let sit until cool enough to handle. Halve the sweet potatoes lengthwise and scoop out the flesh into a large bowl; mash until smooth and allow to cool completely. Whisk the sugar, oil, eggs and salt into the sweet potato mash until combined.

Sift the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg together into a small bowl. Stir the flour mixture into the sweet potato mixture; fold in the pecans.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 9-loaf mini loaf pan (alternatively, use mini loaf baking cups in a 9" x 13" pan). Evenly fill the loaf cups with batter and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the centre of a loaf comes out cleanly.

Meanwhile, using a wet knife, cut each marshmallow crosswise into 3 slices (rinse the knife in between slices for clean cuts). Top each baked loaf with three marshmallow slices; set the pan under the broiler until the marshmallows are toasted and golden, 2 to 3 minutes. Serve warm.

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CHEER UP A PLAIN CEILING BY APPLYING A GRAPHIC GEOMETRIC WALLPAPER. IT'S A FASHION-FORWARD LOOK THAT INSTANTLY DRAWS THE EYE UPWARD.

stylish study

The Kelly Deck Design team adorns a bright white office with all things glam. Here's how to achieve a similarly chic look.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI

PHOTOGRAPHY BARRY CALHOUN

MAXIMIZE EVERY SQUARE INCH OF A SMALL SPACE WITH CUSTOM MILLWORK. FOR THIS OFFICE, THE DESIGNERS ADDED TWO WORKSTATIONS, CLOSED CABINETRY AND OPEN SHELVING.

SINCE EVERY CREATIVE GENIUS REQUIRES A WHIMSICAL WORKSPACE, TRY SOMETHING UNEXPECTED AND LEAN LIVELY PRINTS ATOP YOUR DESK.

BRING SHIMMER AND SHINE TO YOUR STUDY WITH WARM METAL ELEMENTS. HERE, GOLD ACCENTS LIKE THIS PEACE SIGN SCULPTURE DRAW ATTENTION TO THE ROOM'S STUNNING SHOWPIECE: THE MODERN BRASS LIGHT FIXTURE.

DESIGN, Kelly Deck Design, kellydeck.com; Designers Guild **WALLPAPER,** WD Western Designers; custom **MILLWORK,** JMV Woodworks; **OFFICE CHAIR,** Source Office Furnishings; **PRINTS,** Michelle Morin; Jonathan Adler **CHANDELIER,** Robinson Lighting & Bath Centre; **TASK LAMP,** Arteriors Home; white **FRAMES,** Pottery Barn; brass peace sign **SCULPTURE,** The Cross Decor & Design; **TAPE DISPENSER,** Anthropologie; gold **PAPER CLIPS,** Indigo; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Bradford Decorative Hardware.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

▲ Satellite **CHANDELIER** in Brass, $1,723, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

get the look

Sophisticated Glam

▲ Lantern **VASE** in White, $98 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

▼ Brass Peace Sign **SCULPTURE,** $175 US, Jayson Home, jaysonhome.com.

◀ Aiden Upholstered **ARMCHAIR** with linen blend fabric in Peacoat Navy, $799 US, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

▶ Barbara Hulanicki The Hypnotist **WALLPAPER** in Mono, $155 per double roll, Graham & Brown, grahambrown.com.

Tasked with creating her personal home office, interior designer Jenifer Glover lets one thing be known: Style is strategic. Here's how to mimic her masterful ways.

TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

orderly office

MAKE A GIANT BULLETIN BOARD ON THE CHEAP WITH CORKBOARD, BURLAP AND GROSGRAIN RIBBON TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND LEND WARMTH AND TEXTURE TO A ROOM.

INSTEAD OF SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW FOR A STYLISH T-SHAPED DESK, CONSTRUCT ONE YOURSELF BY PLACING THREE TABLES TOGETHER. KEEP THE EXPANSIVE WORKSPACE CLUTTER-FREE BY STORING EVERYDAY ITEMS IN PRETTY BASKETS AND POTS.

DITCH FLIMSY FILE FOLDERS IN FAVOUR OF STURDY CLIPBOARDS HUNG ON A WALL IN A SIMPLE GRID ARRANGEMENT. THINK OF IT AS A PRACTICAL TAKE ON THE GALLERY WALL, IDEAL FOR KEEPING TRACK OF IMPORTANT PAPERS OR SHOWCASING INSPIRING PHOTOS AND PHRASES.

ORGANIZING SHELVES WELL IS SOMETHING OF AN ART FORM. A RELIABLE RULE OF THUMB? CHOOSE ITEMS IN VARIED SHAPES AND SIZES, SUCH AS TEXTURED BASKETS AND DECORATIVE *OBJETS*, TO ADD DIMENSION AND CHARACTER.

DESIGN, J.G. Interiors, jginteriors.com; Morning Dew OC-140 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **DESKS, SHELVING UNIT, RUG, TASK LAMP,** wicker **BASKETS,** black **VASE,** white **POT, MAGAZINE HOLDERS, WALL ORGANIZER,** IKEA; **CLIPBOARDS,** Dollarama; black and white **BASKET,** HomeSense; wire **BASKET,** Crate and Barrel.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

◀ Russell + Hazel acrylic **CLIPBOARD,** $22, Indigo, indigo.ca.

get the look

Simple Modern

◀ Revere **WALL ORGANIZERS** in Gold, Silver and White, from $30 each, CB2, cb2.ca.

▶ Striped **BASKET** in Black, $85, Far & Wide Collective, far-andwidecollective.ca.

◀ Fjälla **MAGAZINE HOLDERS** in Off-white, $7 per pair, IKEA, ikea.ca.

access: style

Style at Home editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin jetted off to H&M headquarters in Stockholm to chat with Evelina Kravaev-Söderberg, the creative genius behind H&M Home, and get a peek at its stunning spring collection.

"Nature is the green thread running through the H&M Home collection this spring."

MEET EVELINA

"Whatever your age, whatever your style, you'll find something here that suits you," says Evelina Kravaev-Söderberg, head of design for H&M Home, which made its Canadian debut at the West Edmonton Mall in 2014 and recently launched at the CF Toronto Eaton Centre. Effortlessly elegant, Evelina's personal style translates to every product, meaning each one is covetable, versatile and on trend. This past November, our editor-in-chief, Erin McLaughlin, met Evelina at H&M's Stockholm headquarters to get a preview of the spring collection (presented on the table at left). Turn the page to find out more.

STYLISH WORKSPACE

The whole design department works alongside one another at this table (where Evelina is sitting at right), inspiring community, collaboration and creativity. Cubbies of H&M Home samples and fabrics not only provide a beautiful backdrop, but also help the team envision what the new products will look like when they're on display in stores.

Inspiration Station

IN ITS HEAD OFFICE, THE H&M HOME DESIGN TEAM KEEPS A CURIO CABINET STOCKED WITH FASHIONABLE FLEA MARKET FINDS FOR INSPIRATION.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY H&M

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STRUCTUBE

TREND WATCH: SPRING 2016

"Nature is the green thread running through the H&M Home collection this spring," says Evelina. "I love the authentic look of natural materials and the good feeling that nature brings to the home." While natural inspiration is highlighted in this season's product line, it can be further broken down into four trend themes: clean (boasting a sleek, city feel), cozy (comfy yet ultra-feminine), coastal (featuring that casual, laid-back beachy-chic vibe) and punchy (lots of fun and über-eclectic). The resulting collection truly has something for everyone, from tropical patterns (bananas and cacti, oh my!) and shades of green (we love the emerald tones) to warm touches (in plush throws and glam brass) and modern geometric accents (they go with almost anything!).

TREND PUNCHY TROPICAL PATTERNS

TREND CLEAN, SLEEK GEOMETRIC SHAPES

TREND QUIRKY ANIMAL PRINTS

TREND SHADES OF GREEN

BOTH EVELINA AND ERIN LOVE THE LIVED-IN-YET-LUXE LOOK OF THE WASHED-LINEN BEDDING COLLECTION.

ERIN'S FAVOURITE FINDS

1 GIRLIE GLAM "It's the perfect place to store my go-to lipsticks." (Glass **CASE,** $20, H&M Home, hm.com.) **2 URBAN GRAPHIC** "This would go well with any style, from modern to boho." (Organic cotton **TOSS CUSHION COVER,** $13, H&M Home, hm.com.) **3 VINTAGE QUIRK** "Wonderfully unexpected, this beaker makes a great vase or simple *objet*." (Glass **VASE** in Clear, from $6, H&M Home, hm.com.)

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY H&M

TURN LAUNDRY TIME INTO TURBO TIME

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tide.ca/he

high OR low?

We designed an inviting entrance on both a grand and a modest budget. Can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE | **TEXT** MARY LEVITSKI

PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL NANGREAVES

HIGH $4,841

$856

1 Grasscloth Resource sisal Shang Extra Fine Sisal **WALLPAPER** in Wedgewood Blue, $428 per double roll, through designers, Thibaut at Kravet Canada, thibautdesign.com.

$460

2 Maxim Lighting Bahama small hemp rope and acrylic Twine **PENDANT LIGHT** in Natural, 20″ x 11″, Universal Lamp, greatlighting.com.

$999

3 Nepalese Feather **PRINT** with acrylic frame, 20″ x 30″, Decorium, decorium.com.

$36

4 Cast zinc alloy Bungalow **HOOKS** in Bronze with Highlights, $12 each, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com.

$990

5 Particleboard 3-door Pax **WARDROBE** in White, 60″ x 24″ x 93″, $280, fibreboard Tyssedal **DOORS** in White with soft-closing hinges, 20″ x 90″, $120 each, **INTERIOR FITTINGS,** $350, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$30

6 Satin-nickel-finished aluminum Chicago **PULLS,** 8″, $15 each, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com.

$475

7 Josef Hoffmann beech bentwood 811 **SIDECHAIR** in Dark Walnut with caned seat and back, Ton, toncanada.com.

$995

8 Antique Royal Doulton bone china transferware **UMBRELLA STAND,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

HIGH & LOW Cement **FLOOR TILES,** Saltillo Imports, saltillo-tiles.com; jute **RUGS,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

LOW $1,807

$646

1 Texture Resource 4 embossed-vinyl Coastal Sisal **WALLPAPER** in Blue, $323 per double roll, through designers, Thibaut at Kravet Canada, thibautdesign.com.

$130

2 Jute **PENDANT LIGHT,** 20″ x 10″, Plant World, plantworld.net.

$209

3 Feather Study **PRINT,** $149, Decorium, decorium.com; glass and aluminum Strömby **PICTURE FRAMES** (customized), 24″x 36″, $30 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$21

4 Nystrom large metal double **HOOKS** in Bronze, $7 each, The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

$700

5 Particleboard and MDF white 3-door Aulum **WARDROBE** with drawers, 63″ x 24″ x 79″, Jysk, jysk.ca.

$26

6 Square brushed-stainless-steel tube **PULLS,** 5″, $11 each, Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com; rectangular brushed-nickel-finished-steel **KNOBS,** $5 each, Lowe's, lowes.ca.

$15

7 Secondhand wooden **SIDECHAIR** (painted black) with caned seat and back, Goodwill, goodwill.on.ca.

$60

8 Secondhand porcelain **UMBRELLA STAND,** Kijiji, kijiji.ca.

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HIGH

$778 US

Jeffrey Alan Marks rattan and lampakanay rope plug-in Green Oaks, 16″ x 19″, through designers, Palecek, palecek.com.

NEW WEAVE

A **pendant light** woven from a natural fibre (such as rattan or bamboo) is a surefire way to bring the outdoors with you as you step through the front door. We've got one for every budget.

$289

Handwoven rattan hard-wired Fray, 27″ x 18″, CB2, cb2.ca.

$80

Bamboo hard-wired Böja, 17″ x 10″, IKEA, ikea.ca.

LOW

cut the clutter

If your entryway does not have a built-in closet, invest in a wardrobe; in a busy area like this, bigger is definitely better. Look for shelves, drawers and other organizing tools to keep all your dashing-out-the-door essentials – such as shoes and keys – right at hand.

the grass is greener

Think the choice between real and faux **grasscloth wallpaper** is simply a matter of budget? Think again. While the high-end delicately woven sisal version has an inimitable texture and natural quality, the embossed vinyl has a similar look with a durable, fully washable surface.

FROM LEFT Grasscloth Resource sisal Shang Extra Fine Sisal in Wedgewood Blue, $428 per double roll, Texture Resource 4 embossed-vinyl Coastal Sisal in Blue, $323 per double roll, through designers, Thibaut at Kravet Canada, thibautdesign.com.

FIT FOR A QUEEN

If you must endure a rainy day, why not enjoy the royal treatment upon coming home? Our High **umbrella stand** was produced at the turn of the 20th century by Royal Doulton, Queen Victoria's ceramics company of choice. The piece's intricate chinoiserie pattern was transfer printed – a painstaking hand-decorating process that modern mass-produced ceramics like our Low just cannot duplicate.

FROM LEFT Antique Royal Doulton bone china transferware, $995, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com; secondhand porcelain, $60, Kijiji, kijiji.ca.

▲ Barloga Studios Feather Study #3, 20″ x 30″, $87, Brika, brika.com.

▲ Feather by Richelle Bergen, 11″ x 14″, $25, Mae Handmade, mae-handmade.com.

▲ Printable Feather (digital file only) by Isma Soumy, 8″ x 10″, $8, Printable LifeStyle, printablelifestyle.etsy.com.

▶ Limited-edition Ruffled Feather by Sarah Luna, 16″ x 16″, from $60 US, Minted, minted.com.

feather finds

For our Low art, we mimicked the dramatic black and white High feather print and its upscale acrylic floating frame using two aluminum and glass picture frames and an inexpensive print. Here are four more budget-friendly **monochromatic feather prints** we love.

ADVERTISEMENT

form +FUNCTION

Group attractive art pieces at eye level and use lower shelves for bulky books or toys.

Choose Comfort

❶ Invest in a stylish sleeper sofa, like the La-Z-Boy Nightlife, which looks sophisticated by day and opens up into a plush bed at night. Its twin-, full- or queen-size mattress has comfy innerspring coils just like a stand-alone mattress, so it pampers guests with fantastic support.

Create a Soft Landing

❷ An eye-catching rug always ties a space together. Choose one with thick pile and make sure it extends under the spot where your sofa folds out. A rug is a warm, inviting place for guests' feet to land the morning after a good night's sleep.

Lighten Up

❸ A wall unit doesn't need to have solid sides to be sturdy. Choose a design with open framework on the sides to give the room an airier feel.

Add Some Punch

❹ A small piece, like an ottoman, is an opportunity to get creative. Choose a bold pattern or a bright colour to grab attention in a serene area. Or choose a contrasting texture to add depth. Think rich finishes, like suede, velvet or leather, and structural elements, like tufts or tucks.

SMART!
Pair a neutral sofa with splashy pillows for max impact. La-Z-Boy offers an array of fabrics so you can design the perfect piece for your space.

Organization is crucial in small spaces —and so is furniture that works twice as hard to earn its place. Even if you have plenty of room, smart pieces that serve more than one purpose give you maximum storage with a minimal footprint.

MULTIFUNCTION MARVEL

Storage ottomans are brilliant small-scale solutions. The U-Turn by La-Z-Boy contains clutter and looks irresistible doing it. It rolls anywhere you need it and can serve as an extra seat at a party.

Sophisticated. Modern. Anything but Ordinary.

There's way more to see in store and at **la-z-boy.com**

LA Z BOY®
Live life comfortably.

Hanging bubble chairs are fun for kids and adults alike.

the PLAY ZONE

TEXT LESLEY YOUNG

Little imaginations thrive in their own spaces. Here are three rooms creatively designed to encourage 100 percent kid-focused fun!

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

1 tree house

Homeowner Mariana D'Amici transforms a loft-style space in her Vancouver house into an adventure playground for her son and daughter.

FANCY FORT "Having a tree house is every kid's dream," says Mariana. Since Vancouver has such a long rainy season, however, she created one in a second living room just outside the bedrooms of Teo, 3, and Ella, 2. Wallpaper featuring trees serves as a suitable backdrop, while a custom-built fort, kitted out with a slide and chalkboard wall, provides ample protection from marauding invaders (read: adults). The top bunk is a cozy, cushioned hideaway perfect for reading.

CRAFT CENTRAL "While I love having all the kids' toys in one room, I also like to keep them out of sight when they're not in use," admits Mariana. Custom cabinetry fills one corner of the room in the form of a desk. For now, the kids might paint or draw there, but the expectation is that it will be a spot where homework is done in the future. "I also had a mini-fridge installed to hold drinks and snacks, since the kitchen is far away," she says.

The high-contrast black and white palette allows the vibrancy of the toys to pop and appeals to both boys and girls.

SWING SET Mariana took a risk on the hanging bubble chairs, as they required some structural engineering to mount. "It was worth it. I wanted seating that was off the ground, first of all, because a sofa would have been too constricting in the space," she says. "I also wanted to maintain clear sightlines. You want to be able to see your kids at all times, especially when they're very young." Mariana loves to swing in a bubble chair with Ella in her arms while watching television or listening to Teo play on his Schoenhut drum set.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

organizing tip

"I like using closed storage and keeping the cabinets low to the ground, filled with clear containers."

Vibrant DIY artwork featuring coloured dots provides a one-of-a-kind kid-friendly statement.

CONTRACTING, custom **CABINETRY,** D'Amici Design Group; Chantilly Lace OC-65 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Cole & Son **WALLPAPER,** Kravet Canada; hanging **BUBBLE CHAIRS,** Regency Shop; **DESK CHAIR,** The Cross Decor & Design; **RUG, WALL ORGANIZER, PICTURE LEDGE,** IKEA; **FLOORING,** Kentwood Floors; star, playroom rules and alphabet **PRINTS,** Kardz Kouture Paper Goods; Ragamuffin **PENNANT,** Roxy Marj; **CABINETRY HARDWARE,** Richelieu Hardware.

2 nature trail

Restaurateur and *Top Chef Canada* judge Shereen Arazm Koules creates a nature-inspired indoor-outdoor retreat for her two daughters in their L.A. home.

NATURE CALLS Shereen spends a lot of time in the kitchen, so she chose a nearby room to be the play area for her daughters, Sam and Neve, now 7 and 4. Since Sam (pictured) loves the outdoors, it was fitting that the theme be all about nature. This was Shereen's primary reason for installing exterior doors in the space – to allow access to the backyard. "Any way you can incorporate the outdoors during playtime is ideal," she says.

ORDERLY CONDUCT "I'm obsessed with storage. I just can't deal with chaos," says Shereen. So she had custom cabinets built, as well as a bookshelf for a large children's book collection. The cupboards hold oodles of toys and crafting supplies. "We also included drawers on either side of the long desk to keep it symmetrical," adds Shereen's trusted designer, Lara McGraw.

Prized possessions make excellent pieces of art. Shereen's mom made this "travelling bag" for her when she was young.

BUTTERFLY EFFECT The colourful butterfly garlands, which float around an airy pendant light and flutter every time the doors open or the air conditioning is turned on, are Sam's favourite feature. She loves to flop back on the leather pouffe and admire them from below. The mirror on the opposite wall sits above a tickle trunk full of costumes, perfect for the girls to spend hours playing dress-up.

Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CHAIRS,** alphabet **WALL DECALS,** The Land of Nod; **POUFFE,** Jonathan Adler; Nelson Saucer **PENDANT LIGHT,** Design Within Reach; butterfly **GARLANDS,** Kol Kid.

organizing tip

"Include playful pieces that work as both educational and decorative elements like an alphabet border."

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH; STYLING, LARA MCGRAW

3 book club

A love of storytime inspired this simply decorated playroom where North Vancouver homeowner Perienne Sadler's two girls can curl up with a good book – or three.

BOOKWORMS Perienne was happy to sacrifice a would-be office for a playroom because she needed to remove the toys from five-year-old Simone's bedroom: "The little monkey was sneaking out of bed and playing during the night." Plus, Perienne prefers all the adult spaces to be toy-free. "But I also felt it was important to have an area where the girls could really blossom creatively on their own," she explains. Books were the design inspiration for the playroom, since Simone and her sister, Emmerson, 3, love storytime.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JANIS NICOLAY

organizing tip

"Create a special space that encourages children's minds to flourish rather than a dumping ground for toys."

SIMPLICITY RULES Perienne kept it practical and budget friendly by incorporating very little furniture – two wicker chairs are the only seating. "I figured the girls are young – they need space to move around, and half the time they sit on the carpet anyway," she says. But the most sensible design element is the wall-to-wall picture ledges. "Simone and Emmerson are too young to read book spines, so displaying the covers allows them to choose exactly the ones they want."

CREATURE COMFORTS Perienne adorned the inside of the canvas teepee with fun toss cushions, a sheepskin rug and tiny white lights so the girls can comfortably read in it, too.

Chalkboard **WALL PAINT,** Rona Home & Garden; **TEEPEE,** Babes on Fourth; **CHAIRS,** sheepskin **RUG, PICTURE LEDGES,** IKEA; **SIDE TABLE, TOSS CUSHIONS,** The Cross Decor & Design; **PENDANT LIGHT,** The Home Depot.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

OPPOSITE While designer Natalie Chong (pictured) opted for mostly budget-friendly, low-commitment items for her rental condo, the living room's cream linen sofa is a classic piece she will keep for many years.

DESIGN, Nest Design Studio, nestdesignstudio.ca; Gull Wing Gray 2134-50 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; custom **SOFA,** Grand Dukes Design and Upholstery; **OTTOMAN,** Urban Barn; **SIDE TABLE,** West Elm; **RUG, TABLE LAMP BASE,** HomeSense; **ARTWORK,** Linelle LeMoine; **TABLE LAMP SHADE,** Pottery Barn; **TOSS CUSHION** with tassels, Amber Interiors; custom **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Shop Nest TO; **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS** (throughout), Sweet Woodruff.

Designer Natalie Chong's light-challenged interior proves that with a little creativity and a few insider tricks, you can turn a small rental condo into something amazing.

TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ASHLEY CAPP | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

"I used four different shades from one strip of the paint deck. I started with the lightest colour in the entryway and worked my way to the darkest shade near the windows."

When designer Natalie Chong, owner of Nest Design Studio, first saw the condo she shares with her fiancé, the space looked grim. "It had a frat-house vibe – the previous occupants had trashed the place," she says. Thankfully, Natalie's designer eye could see past the beat-up walls and flooring, and with some substantial wall patching and painting and floor repair, the 755-square-foot pad in downtown Toronto began to take on the chic, sophisticated aesthetic it has now.

Because the condo is a rental, Natalie selected paint, furniture and accessories that were either low cost or low commitment. And anything she and her fiancé invested in, such as custom upholstered pieces, can be taken with them when they purchase their first home.

The condo's tricky layout also required creative thinking. The space is long and narrow, with large windows at one end, leaving the other side quite dim. To increase the feeling of light throughout, Natalie employed a colour trick on the

ABOVE Custom linen drapes with a band of grey trim form a neutral backdrop to some bold living room furniture, including the persimmon-coloured velvet ottoman.

BERGÈRE CHAIR, Grand Dukes Design and Upholstery; custom **DRAPERY,** Your Sweet Home.

TOP RIGHT & RIGHT The simple, modern kitchen was already in place, so Natalie keeps it chic and clutter-free with a few well-chosen accessories. The stainless steel backsplash is a practical finish that reflects light. One to mix high-end with low, Natalie paired a thrift-shop tea set with a more expensive cutting board.

Copper-handled **CUTTING BOARD,** Crate and Barrel.

In the dining area, Natalie selected a round pedestal table with a leaf that can transform it into a six seater when she and her fiancé entertain. Slipcovered armchairs make for a more comfortable alternative to basic dining seating and are practical in the event of spills. A leaning mirror takes up little floor space but has big impact.

Whitestone 2134-60 **WALL PAINT** (left), Gull Wing Gray 2134-50 **WALL PAINT** (right), Benjamin Moore; custom **DINING CHAIR SLIPCOVERS,** Grand Dukes Design and Upholstery; **CONSOLE,** HomeSense; hide **RUG, MIRROR,** sheepskin **THROWS,** IKEA; Seascapes series **ARTWORK,** Linelle LeMoine; **PENDANT LIGHT,** West Elm.

walls: "Instead of using one hue, I used four different shades from one strip of the paint deck," she explains. "I started with the lightest colour in the entryway and worked my way to the darkest shade near the windows."

Natalie keeps the small space organized by using double-duty pieces that boast extra storage. For example, instead of incorporating a simple console in the tiny entryway, she utilized a shoe cabinet that acts as a tabletop for dropping keys, mail and other items. But it's her flexibility that's proven to be the best strategy for coping with tight living quarters: Natalie isn't afraid to change things up if something's not working.

Since square footage is at a premium, anything that's not performing in the space gets replaced with a more functional item. But select pieces will certainly be making the cut when the couple decides to move on. "I had the sofa custom made, and it's definitely coming with us!" says Natalie. We can't wait to see what she does with more room.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TOP LEFT A shoe cabinet stashes everyday footwear and creates a drop-off zone in the entry. Natalie upgraded the hardware for a more sophisticated look.

SHOE CABINET, IKEA; **MIRROR, TABLE LAMP,** West Elm; **KNOBS,** Restoration Hardware.

ABOVE The low-profile bed frame makes sense in the small bedroom. The integrated nightstand is a space-saving feature that looks modern and functions well.

Collingwood OC-28 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **BED FRAME, RUG,** IKEA; **TOSS CUSHION** with tassels, Amber Interiors; **ARTWORK** by Sarah Swanson, Shop Nest TO; Jonathan Adler zebra **JEWELLERY DISH,** Waiting on Martha.

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FAMILY TIES

One house: two living spaces, two dining spaces. Decorated for everyday and for entertaining, all four are entirely kid friendly. Here are the key features that make each room work for children and adults alike. **TEXT** SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL GRAYDON | **STYLING** CHRISTINE HANLON

expandable dining table When fully extended, the dining table seats 14 people. "I have a big family, my husband has a big family, and it's important to us that everyone fits," explains homeowner Amanda Cohen. "I'm not into having a kids' table. I want everyone in the same space."

weathered coffee table The entire family enjoying the same area as much as possible applies to after dinner, too. While the adults are chatting around the dining table, the kids can play in the adjoining living room – which is why designer Tim Johnson chose a coffee table that can endure a lot of use. "The kids can craft on it, I'm sure there's glue stuck to it... and it just gets better," says Amanda.

durable fabrics From the sofa to the dining chairs, the fabrics Tim chose are all tough. "The design is about fun and laughter and kids being able to jump on the furniture, which they do," says Tim. "That's just the kind of family they are." The most expensive fabric was used on the dining chair backs, which get touched by tiny hands the least.

inexpensive toss cushions "How much are you going to spend on toss cushions when you know your kids are going to throw them around?" says Amanda with a laugh.

easy entertaining

The open-concept front room of this Toronto house features a living and dining area mainly enjoyed when the family is entertaining – but it's not the kind of place the kids (who were ages six and three when it was designed) can't go. "I wanted my home to feel child friendly, but not in an amusement park kind of way," says homeowner Amanda Cohen, who lives here with her husband, Noah Segal, and their two boys, Olivier (Liv) and Beckham, now 12 and 9. "I needed it to be fun, as well as cozy and comfortable...and usable."

DESIGN, Timothy Johnson Design, tjdesign.com. **DINING AREA:** Custom **DINING CHAIRS,** Louis Interiors; **DINING CHAIR BACK FABRIC,** Y & Co.; **DINING CHAIR SEAT FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design; *Floating Pond With Koi #3* **ARTWORK** by Steven Nederveen, Canvas Gallery; **CHANDELIER, BOWL** (with flowers), Elte. **LIVING AREA: SOFA, RUG,** grey and yellow **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROW,** Elte; **SIDECHAIR UPHOLSTERY,** Louis Interiors; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Y & Co.; **DRAPERY FABRICATION, LUMBAR & TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Fine Interiors by Susan; vintage **TABLE LAMP,** Patina Antiques; **ARTWORK, BOWL** (on coffee table), Shelter.

family photos The gallery wall featuring pictures of the boys captures the carefree energy of the household. "I sent Tim a huge file of photos, and he did the rest," says Amanda. "He put it up the morning of Mother's Day. I was bawling."

heavy-duty dining table From their annual *MasterChef Junior*-inspired competitions to the kids' science experiments to arts and crafts, this wooden dining table sees a lot of action. "I don't care if it gets dented," says Amanda.

easy-clean seating With a white vinyl settee and plastic dining chairs, the area where the family eats (and plays) every day can be quickly wiped clean with a wet cloth. The same goes for the family room's leather ottoman (where the kids play board games).

protected rug "You'd never know that this white rug is more than six years old," says Amanda of why she Scotchgarded it. "There have been many spills, and there's no trace."

everyday elegance

"The kids really, really love this area," says Amanda of the back room of the family's house. "It's our happy place. It's where we spend all our time – eating, crafting, cooking." While still elegantly appointed, the family room and eat-in area of the kitchen are designed to stand up to the everyday use of an ultra-active household. "Amanda is an absolute firecracker, and her home is a very busy one," says Tim. "So I designed a space that's bright and colourful like her but also not too serious or overly precious for her kids (and their friends who visit)."

DINING AREA: Custom **DINING TABLE,** Wolstencroft Kitchens & Fine Cabinetry; **DINING CHAIRS,** Neat; **SETTEE,** Louis Interiors; **PENDANT LIGHT, TRAY,** Hollace Cluny; **TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Fine Interiors by Susan. **LIVING AREA: SOFA, OTTOMAN, BOOK,** Elte; **SIDECHAIR & DRAPERY FABRIC, RUG,** Y & Co.; **SIDECHAIR UPHOLSTERY,** Louis Interiors; **DRAPERY FABRICATION, LUMBAR & TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Fine Interiors by Susan; *Reach for the Sky; Never Let Go* **ARTWORK** by James Robert Durant, Muse Gallery; **TRAY,** West Elm.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

split decisions

A dreary and dysfunctional basement is converted into a clever multi-use space that takes advantage of every nook and cranny – no matter how small.

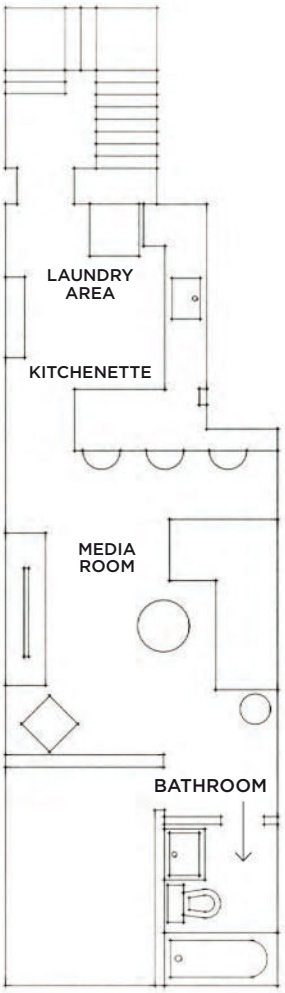
TEXT BRITTANY DEVENYI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** STACY BEGG

LEFT & ABOVE Homeowner Shannon Cummins spends time in her basement's workspace, which is positioned next to the media room – an ideal place for hosting friends and family.

Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **SECTIONAL,** CB2; **COFFEE TABLE,** Structube; **SIDE TABLE,** HomeSense; **STOOLS,** Restoration Hardware; heated polished-concrete **FLOORING** (throughout), Floorlab; **RUG,** eCarpetGallery; **FLOOR LAMP,** West Elm; custom **SEAT & TOSS CUSHIONS,** Tonic Living; **THROW,** Pehr Designs.

THE BEFORE

THE FLOOR PLAN



For six years, Toronto couple Shannon Cummins and Kevin Ramsey lived with an unfinished basement devoid of brightness and purpose – unless you count a makeshift laundry area illuminated by a tiny emergency light. But Shannon, a designer at home decor fabric store Tonic Living, had a vision. In 2014, the style-savvy homeowner transformed their 600-square-foot basement into the antithesis of its former self: a vibrant and versatile space packed with smart storage solutions. "We decided to renovate to make up for what we were lacking in the rest of the house," says Shannon, who used every square inch to accommodate a kitchen-meets-office nook, a laundry area, a media zone, a bathroom and storage space. Here's how the pair manages to keep their modern, multi-purpose lower level clean and clutter-free.

1 KITCHENETTE & WORKSPACE

A mini-fridge helps delineate the kitchenette and workspace from the laundry area. One cabinet drawer is reserved for bar essentials while the remainder conceal art and school supplies, which the couple's six-year-old son, Max, often uses while stationed at the peninsula – he even painted the colourful piece on display beside the computer (shown opposite). It's a talent Max likely inherited from his mother, who also paints here and created much of the artwork seen throughout the basement.

CABINETRY, RUNNER, IKEA; marble **COUNTERTOPS,** Foson; **MINI-FRIDGE,** The Home Depot; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Cocoon Furnishings; **CABINETRY HARDWARE** (throughout), Upper Canada Specialty Hardware.

2 LAUNDRY AREA

Shannon initially envisioned a closed-off laundry room, but after considering a few different layouts, she decided it wasn't the best use of space. Instead, she installed a stacked washer and dryer in the basement's kitchenette. "It opened up the room, resulting in the biggest living area possible," says Shannon. The design choice also allowed for additional cabinetry to minimize clutter. "I love having the counter space to fold clothes," she says.

WASHER, DRYER, Whirlpool; **FAUCET,** Kohler; custom **ROMAN SHADE,** Tonic Living; **HAMPER, BASKETS** (hung on wall), Pehr Designs; **BASKET** (on counter), IKEA.

3 MEDIA ROOM

The family spends most of their downtime in the basement's colourful media zone. "We were in desperate need of a family room," says Shannon, pointing out that their upstairs living area is especially tiny. "I love that everyone can finally be together in our small house." To hide unsightly electronics, Shannon scored a beautiful Mid-Century Modern sideboard from a local vintage shop. She purchased the piece for its doors, which cleverly slide open to reveal devices like a cable box and game console. The homeowners also dug the floor down two feet to increase the ceiling height and make the space brighter and airier. "It doesn't feel like a basement anymore," says Shannon. "Almost everyone who comes down here says the same thing."

Vintage **SIDEBOARD,** Studio Pazo; **ARMCHAIR** (customized), Kravet Canada; custom **ARMCHAIR SLIPCOVER,** Tonic Living; **TABLE LAMP,** white ceramic **VASES,** West Elm.

4 STORAGE SPACE

Aside from a few hooks and one small cupboard, the semi-detached home lacks front hall storage. Now, thanks to the complete basement overhaul, the family conceals shoes and other off-season items in two large cabinets. "It's important to edit what you have," says Shannon. "I don't keep extra stuff lying around because we just don't have the space for it."

CABINETS, white wire **BASKET,** large woven **BASKET,** IKEA; *Zero Gravity 1* **ARTWORK** by Danielle Hession, Art Interiors; **SEWING MACHINE,** Singer; **STEAMER,** Rowenta; custom **TOSS CUSHION,** Tonic Living.

"IT'S IMPORTANT TO *EDIT WHAT YOU HAVE.* I DON'T KEEP EXTRA STUFF LYING AROUND BECAUSE WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE SPACE FOR IT."

5 BATHROOM

Before the basement reno, there was only one bathroom in the house. "Having a second bathroom is life changing," says Shannon. While the chartreuse floral shower curtain and glossy marble tiles lend texture and elegance, the marble-topped vanity delivers beauty as well as function. "In the end, I chose a vanity that offers maximum storage space," she says, highlighting the fact that each of the wide drawers actually opens. They're perfect for stowing everything from toilet paper to hairbrushes and corralling smaller items like cotton swabs in clear plastic containers.

Hague Blue 30 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **WALL TILES, FLOOR TILES,** Olympia Tile + Stone; **CHAIR RAIL TILE,** The Tile Store; **VANITY,** Muti Kitchen & Bath; **BATHTUB,** Maax; **FAUCET, SHOWER FIXTURES,** Delta Faucet; custom **SHOWER CURTAIN & ROD, TOWEL** (on hook), Tonic Living; **HOOKS,** The Home Depot; **BATHMAT,** IKEA.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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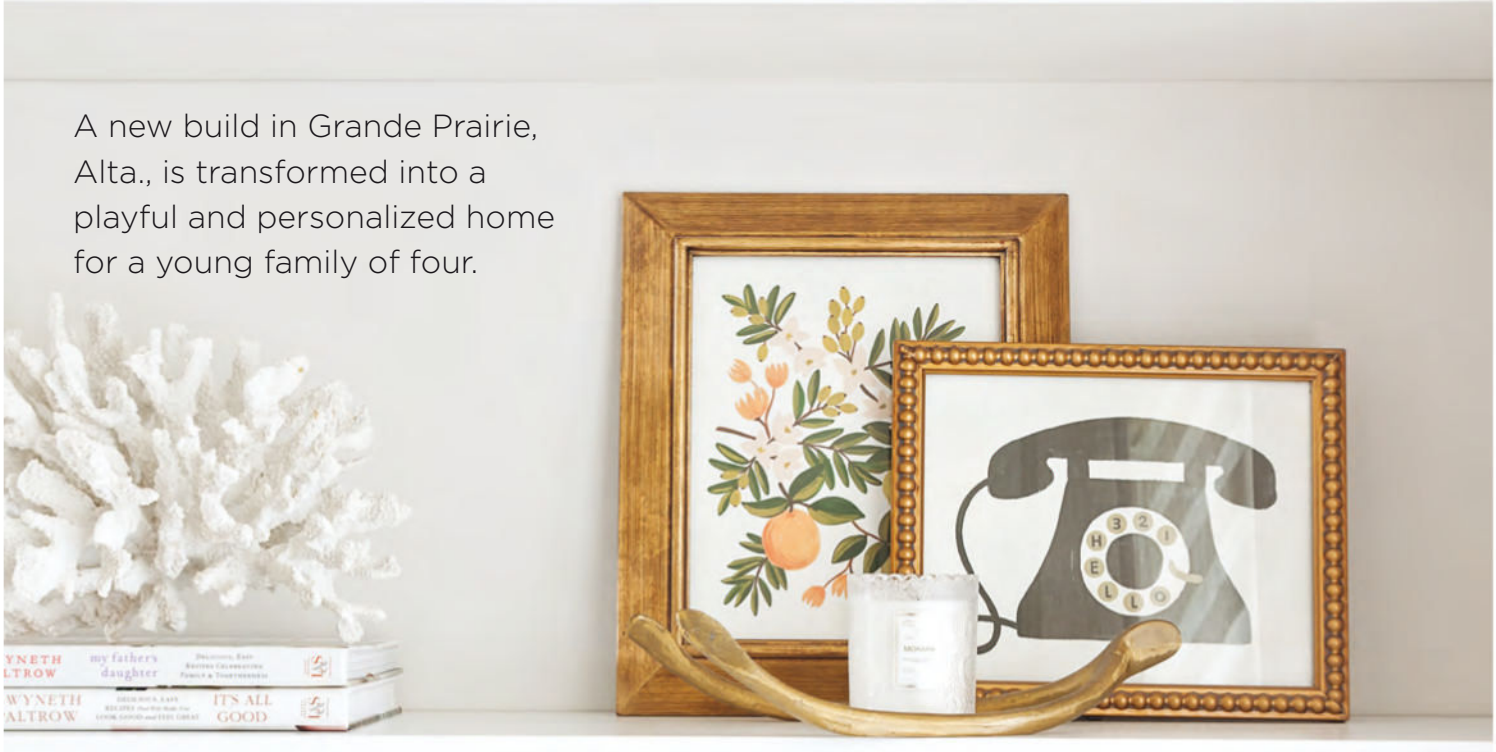
PHOTOGRAPHY, BARRY CALHOUN

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

A space that's truly your own doesn't rely on square footage to make its mark. Instead, every nook and cranny has a subtle quality that's distinctly you. Whether it's a favourite paint colour, a treasured chair, a memorable piece of art or some coveted fabric on a cushion or curtain, those small details lift your rooms from blah to bliss.



A new build in Grande Prairie, Alta., is transformed into a playful and personalized home for a young family of four.

up & CLOSE personal

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BARRY CALHOUN

OPPOSITE "When I dress shelves, I use a mix of items that look interesting together," says homeowner Brittany Robertson. "I incorporate a living element like a potted plant or fresh flowers, a meaningful object like artwork and something white like a piece of coral to balance everything out. It's a foolproof equation."

Classic Gray OC-23 **WALL PAINT** (throughout, except guest room), Benjamin Moore; floral and telephone **PRINTS,** Rifle Paper Co.; gold dot **JAR,** Propeller & Co.

ABOVE Brittany accessorized her all-white kitchen with playful accents and a variety of metals. The island, outfitted with weathered-wood stools, is her daughters' favourite spot for eating lunch and doing homework. "The stools add warmth and are a tonal complement to the island and the flooring," she says.

RANGE, Samsung; **STOOLS,** Restoration Hardware; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Build.com.

YOU'RE
ONE
COOL
CATI

People often say *destiny* led them to their dream home.

In the case of the Robertson family, it's true – literally. "Four years ago my cousin Destiny recommended the house we now call home," says blogger Brittany Robertson of Oh My Dear, who shares the space with her husband, Jade (a business owner), and their two daughters, Elizabeth, 5, and Paisley, 4. "Destiny knew we were looking for a bigger place and suggested Deeproot Developments, a local company that builds character homes." A visit to its website proved fruitful. "I fell in love with what I saw and had our real estate agent show us all the houses Deeproot had on the market," says Brittany. "We snapped up one still in its framing stage, so, while it wasn't a custom build, we still had some freedom to put our stamp on it."

As the construction of their 1,680-square-foot three-bedroom house continued, Brittany focused on making it her family's own. "My biggest must-have was an all-white kitchen, which is actually hard to find in Grande Prairie homes, where stained-wood cabinetry is the norm," she says. She also got creative with storage in the girls' bedroom. "I knew if I kept their clothes in a dresser, I could use the large closet to organize their collection of toys."

Brittany worked closely with Deeproot co-owner and in-house designer Robyn Walter, who sourced a selection of flooring, lighting and paint options. "Robyn let me have final say," she explains. Their tastes

LEFT "If your walls lack architectural detail, shelving and artwork are a great way to create interest," says Brittany. She and her husband, Jade, pictured below with daughters Elizabeth and Paisley, made the coffee table for a fraction of the four-figure price tag of a similar one.

SOFA SLIPCOVERS, Comfort Works; **SIDE TABLES** (customized), **SHELVES,** white **TOSS CUSHION** (customized), IKEA; **STOOL, MIRROR,** HomeSense; **RUG,** Wayfair; fern-print **TOSS CUSHION,** Pier 1 Imports; solid pink **TOSS CUSHION,** Indigo; grey-diamond-patterned **TOSS CUSHION,** West Elm; **FLORALS** (throughout), Grower Direct Grande Prairie.

"I didn't want our dining room furniture to look like it was a set," says Brittany. To break up all the wood, she placed upholstered chairs at opposite ends of the table. "We eat dinner here every night. The large window looks out to our backyard, and beyond that is the countryside."

DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, Restoration Hardware; **END CHAIR, BENCH,** HomeSense; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Build.com.

were in sync, including the choice of laminate flooring. "It looks amazing, and is durable and cost-effective," says Brittany.

To make the decor and design features stand out, Brittany chose light grey for the walls. "Neutral walls allow me to switch up the decor with ease, which is important, as I change my mind a lot!" she says.

While her blog fans relish these changes, they also love Brittany's signature style – livable rooms with kid-friendly furniture, loads of comfy accents and a pale palette that's anything but cold. "People often ask me how our mostly white house can be so cozy, and I tell them it's because it's decorated just for us," she says. That means pretty pastels for Elizabeth and Paisley, sleek metallics for the grown-ups and an abundance of meaningful touches like accessories and artwork – much of which Brittany DIYed. "It's these details that make a space feel more personal," she says. And given that her blog tag line is "practicing the art of making a house a home," it was destined to be.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

RIGHT, TOP & BOTTOM
"I wanted the guest room to be multifunctional, which is why I chose a daybed," says Brittany. She painted the original dark laminate panelling behind the bed a soft white, which inspired the blue and white scheme. DIY artwork complements the fresh palette.

Cloud White OC-130 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Lakeside Pine 7623 **DRESSER PAINT,** Cloverdale Paint; **DRAPERY,** IKEA; **RUG, TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; white **TOSS CUSHION** with pompom trim, H&M Home; **WALL PLANTERS** (customized), West Elm.

TEXT BETH HITCHCOCK

PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY CAPP

STYLING NICOLA MARC

Between the bedroom and bathroom sits a chic home office area. The industrial look of the vintage chair and Eames desk is softened with a beautiful piece of underwater photographic art and an antique Chapman ram's horn lamp.

Angel 4 **ARTWORK** by Zena Holloway, Citizen Atelier; **FLOWERS** (throughout), Fauchois Fleurs; **BOOKENDS,** The Cross Decor & Design.

DOWN TO A *fine art*

A beautiful Montreal loft serves as the perfect backdrop for an online art gallery owner's expansive collection of works.

RIGHT Though tenant Alessandra Salituri works as an art dealer, she was enchanted by the gallery wall already installed in the living area by the flat's owners, Nathalie Bouchard and Annie Horth. "Annie works as an artistic director and fashion stylist, and some of these photos are her collaborations," says Alessandra. "I love the editorial feel of them."

COFFEE TABLE, Jack's; **SIDE TABLE,** Showroom Montreal; **RUG,** EQ3; **FLOOR LAMP,** Latitude Nord; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Beige; **THROW,** Novica.

BELOW Alessandra leaned two dramatic works of art by photographer (and floral designer) Ashley Woodson Bailey on either side of the TV in the living area to create a pleasing sense of balance.

TV STAND, Thien Ta Trung; *Dutch Love* (left) and *Banks* **ARTWORK** by Ashley Woodson Bailey, Citizen Atelier; vintage German **PITCHER,** Showroom Montreal.

IT'S RARE TO MOVE INTO A RENTAL FLAT – A FURNISHED ONE, AT THAT – AND BARELY CHANGE A THING.

But that's exactly what happened when Alessandra Salituri, a globetrotter and the founder of online art gallery Citizen Atelier, went shopping for a Montreal *pied-à-terre*. "It was the second place I saw on Airbnb, and I felt instantly at home," she says. "I've developed a distinct style that's very monochromatic, punctuated with blues and blacks, and this space looked like it was designed for me."

Touring the petite place in the city's Quartier International in person only reinforced her first impression. She loved the way the entry's lacquered cement floor gave way to a diagonal checkerboard-painted

one in the kitchen. And then there was the architecture – soaring, sophisticated and inspiring. "With its 11-foot-tall ceiling, the space was the perfect bridge between a Parisian apartment and a New York City loft," she says. "I had a *coup de coeur* – meaning I fell instantly in love – when I saw those doors in the dining room. They're architectural masterpieces."

The Creative Flats loft is one of several furnished rental apartments owned by the design duo of Nathalie Bouchard and Annie Horth in the historic area. Move-in ready, the space already housed an enviable mix of contemporary pieces and Mid-Century Modern furniture – not to mention a bistro-style kitchen. "All I had to do to make it my own was bring in some art, family heirlooms and bedding," says Alessandra. Its ease was ideal for the frequent traveller, who often finds herself in Los Angeles, New York City and parts of Europe looking for new artistic talent to feature on her site.

Alessandra often uses the dining table as a workspace; she finds it inspiring to look through the windows across the room at historic Montreal. The custom doors are an architectural highlight.

DINING TABLE, Latitude Nord; vintage **DINING CHAIRS,** Cité Déco Meubles; **CHANDELIER,** Avant-Scène; glass **BOWL,** wooden **BOX,** Beige.

With just 780 square feet and an open layout, the loft presented several storage challenges. A vintage wall-mounted unit in the entryway offers both closed and open storage, but Alessandra had to get creative with other items, using a chest of drawers in the dining area for clothing. Luckily, she'd already done some serious decluttering. "When I moved in here, I tried to pare down and make sure every piece had either beauty or value," she says.

At the top of the must-keep list was her growing collection of art, spanning styles from still-life florals to fashion-forward photography. "I'm attracted to surrealist art, and I also think works with people in them add depth and personality to a space," she says of her collecting philosophy. Renters are often hesitant to hang

ABOVE, LEFT Alessandra instantly admired the super-high ceiling and European-influenced architecture of this Montreal rental flat. "As soon as I walked through the doors, it felt so me," she says.

Mallard Wing #1 **ARTWORK** (left) by Sean Gallagher, *They Still Bloom* **ARTWORK** (right) by Amy Friend, Citizen Atelier.

RIGHT "This is definitely not a cookie-cutter rental kitchen," says Alessandra of the modern bistro-style space, which is open to the rest of the loft.

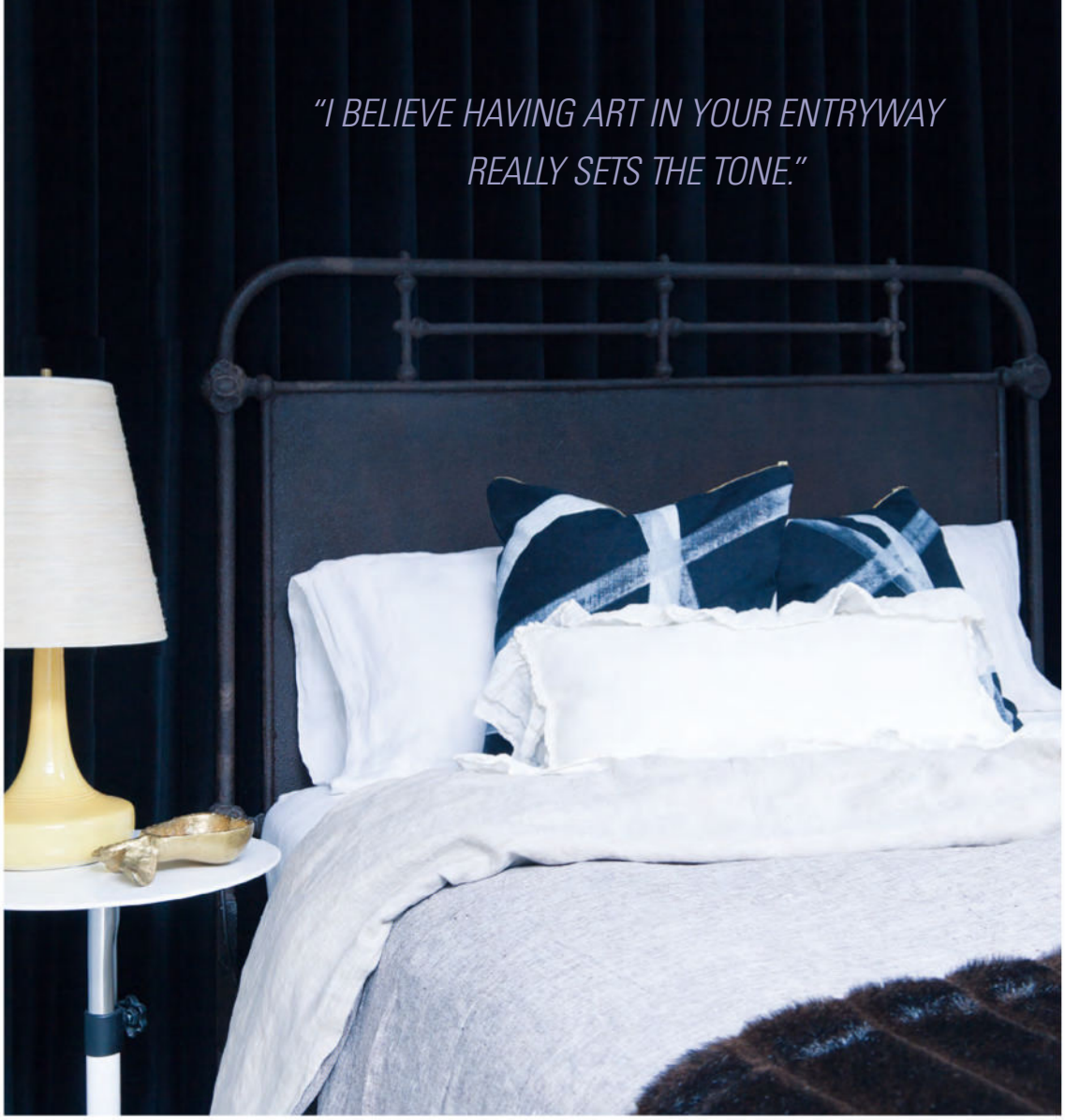
Keeper, Splendor and *Sanctuary* **ARTWORK** by Erika Masterson, Citizen Atelier; **CAKE STAND, COFFEE POT,** copper **POT, CUTTING BOARD,** Arthur Quentin; **TEA TOWEL,** Qui Dort Dîne.

RIGHT & BELOW, LEFT In the bedroom area, a floor-to-ceiling black velvet curtain acts as both a backdrop and space divider. A windowsill affords an opportunity for art: Alessandra chose this work by Spanish photographer Rebeca Cygnus because she loves its moody blue-black palette.

BED FRAME, Restoration Hardware; **DUVET COVER, PILLOWCASES, LUMBAR CUSHION,** Qui Dort Dîne; *Prelude* **ARTWORK** by Rebeca Cygnus, Citizen Atelier; Hollie Cooper **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Black Rooster Decor.

BELOW, RIGHT A vintage wall-mounted unit provides much-needed storage in the front hall. Alessandra uses the lower surface for display purposes.

WALL UNIT, vintage Bertoia-style **CHAIRS,** Jack's; *Crow in Winter* **ARTWORK** (middle), Deirdre McCay; white **VASES,** Ludovik.



"I BELIEVE HAVING ART IN YOUR ENTRYWAY REALLY SETS THE TONE."

artwork because it puts too many holes in the walls, but this wasn't a problem for Alessandra, who prefers to lean her pieces to create a more relaxed vibe.

With her business taking off (Citizen Atelier was recently named one of the best online art sources by *Elle Decor*), it won't be long before this global citizen moves on again. But her temporary home has left a lasting impression, she says. "I learn so much from other creative people, and Nathalie and Annie fashioned a special space that inspires me."

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

The living room, with its neutral palette and warm mix of textures, gets a formal vibe from the chic scalloped-linen pendant light, marble-topped gold-leaf iron coffee table and herringbone marble fireplace surround.

DESIGN, Kerrisdale Design, kerrisdale-design.com; Cloud White OC-130 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore; **ARMCHAIRS,** Jayson Home; **COFFEE TABLE,** Wisteria; **SIDE TABLE, BASKET, BOX,** HomeSense; **FIREPLACE SURROUND TILE,** The Tile Shop; custom **RUG, PENDANT LIGHT, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Kerrisdale Design.

on the SURFACE

Classic and clean-lined, neutral and natural, this mix takes a builder-basic house from plain to pleasing.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TRACEY AYTON

"THE ENTRYWAY DRESSER *is the perfect catch-all.* IT HOLDS EVERYTHING FROM KEYS TO MAIL TO HATS."

The walnut-stained wire-brushed oak floors and new mouldings give the entryway timeless character, while the black faux-bamboo dresser offers handy storage.

FLOORING (throughout), Exclusive Floors; **DRESSER, RUNNER, TABLE LAMP,** HomeSense; **OTTOMAN,** Home Decorators Collection; *Held* **ARTWORK,** Zoë Pawlak; female figure **ARTWORK,** Teil Duncan Art; geometric **PRINTS,** Kerrisdale Design.

RIGHT Keeping the original cabinetry, designer Karla Amadatsu and her husband, Jeff, transformed the kitchen by filling the gap between the uppers and the ceiling and painting everything white. Details like the ceramic-tiled backsplash with light grey grout, decorative toe kicks and polished-nickel hardware dress up the space and create a fresh, traditional look.

Usually when we talk about a house that has great "renovation potential," we're referring to a fixer-upper with a ton of charm. But in this case, it was a typical 12-year-old spec house that struck the vivid imagination of designer Karla Amadatsu of Kerrisdale Design.

When she and her husband, Jeff, purchased the 4,150-square-foot home in Langley, B.C., two years ago, they appreciated its formal layout, good bones, attractive exterior and family-friendly cul-de-sac setting. (They share the house with their children, Ben, 9, and Carys, 7.) The problem was all the brown. But Karla, who is known for her sophisticated "new traditional" style, could see beyond the interior's

Custom **CABINETRY,** Dynasty Kitchen Cabinets; Cloud White OC-130 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; marble **ISLAND COUNTERTOP,** Abacado Granite & Stone Works; **BACKSPLASH TILES, KNOBS,** The Home Depot; **APPLIANCES,** Coast Wholesale Appliances; custom **RANGE HOOD,** Hand One Design; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Kerrisdale Design; **PULLS,** Restoration Hardware; **VASE,** Floralista Flower Studio.

The family room, which is adjacent to the kitchen's eat-in area, is both elegant and relaxed, with a neutral colour scheme and a mix of classic and clean-lined furnishings. Karla transformed the fireplace – which was surrounded by a busy combination of built-in shelves and niches – with drywall, a mantel found on Craigslist and marble subway tiles installed picture-frame style around the gas insert.

Custom **SOFAS, DEMI-LUNE TABLES, GARDEN STOOLS,** botanical **PRINTS, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Kerrisdale Design; folding **STOOLS,** Serena & Lily; **FIREPLACE SURROUND TILES,** The Home Depot; sisal **RUG,** Pottery Barn; vintage kilim **RUG,** Jayson Home; **MIRROR,** Wisteria; **PENDANT LIGHT,** clamshell **PLANTER,** knit **THROW,** Restoration Hardware; **TABLE LAMPS,** Ballard Designs; **BASKET, BOXES,** HomeSense.

builder-basic look. "It felt like a great family home the minute I toured it," says Karla.

Through a cosmetic makeover done in stages over two years, Karla transformed the space by painting everything white, installing dark hardwood floors and adding architectural details like new fireplace mantels with marble surrounds (while removing some slightly odd decorative features, such as faux pillars). "The facade of the house, with its dormer windows, is quite traditional and charming," says Karla. "So we

"I used marble IN THE KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM AND FAMILY ROOM *to create continuity."*

wanted to have the same vibe on the inside, with timeless furnishings and finishes."

To enhance the elegant aesthetic while keeping it inviting and fresh, Karla incorporated both classic and clean-lined pieces, natural fabrics, textural elements, a combination of metals and a neutral palette with hits of black. Artwork, such as a set of German botanical charts and a painting of a birch tree, brings in a bit of nature.

The kitchen – the hub of the home – exemplifies the airy, sophisticated style and is a remarkable study in updating a basic space without starting from scratch. The original cherry-stained cabinetry was extended to the ceiling using additional cabinets and crown moulding to create more storage and then painted white for a seamless look. The island was also dressed up with panelling, white paint and a marble countertop. Finishing touches include a custom-panelled range hood (which replaced a built-in microwave oven), an inexpensive ceramic-tiled backsplash, polished-nickel hardware and a pair of show-stopping pendant lights. "Those were a bit of a splurge," says Karla.

Even though designing the house to meet her vision took a lot of time and effort, Karla is ready to take on a new project and is currently on the hunt for a family home she can once again put her stylish stamp on.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

ZEST *for* FRESH

RECIPES JEANINE DONOFRIO | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JACK MATHEWS

Jeanine Donofrio of loveandlemons.com, one of our favourite food blogs, can make us dinner anytime. Her fresh-and-seasonal-ingredients-meet-a-squeeze-of-lemon philosophy is perfect for the way we want to eat right now. But since we can't seem to settle on a date, we've gone to the next best thing: these delicious recipes culled from her newly published *The Love & Lemons Cookbook*.

EXCERPTED WITH PERMISSION FROM *THE LOVE & LEMONS COOKBOOK* BY JEANINE DONOFRIO (PENGUIN CANADA, A DIVISION OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CANADA LTD.)

Strawberry **SALAD** *With Toasted Hazelnuts*

STRAWBERRY SALAD WITH TOASTED HAZELNUTS

COOK TIME **45 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

- ¾ cup wheat berries, rinsed and picked over
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsp white balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp honey or maple syrup
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 4 cups loosely packed mâche greens or baby salad greens
- ⅓ cup chopped toasted hazelnuts
- 1½ cups sliced fresh strawberries
- ¼ cup sliced basil
- ¼ cup whole mint leaves
- ⅓ cup crumbled feta cheese

Bring a pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add the rinsed wheat berries and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cook, covered, for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the wheat berries are tender, adding more water if necessary to keep them from drying out; drain.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, vinegar and honey. Season with salt and pepper; set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the cooked wheat berries, mâche greens, hazelnuts, strawberries, basil, mint and feta. Drizzle the vinaigrette over the salad and toss. Taste and adjust the seasonings as desired.

APPLE RADISH SLAW

COOK TIME **45 MINUTES** | SERVES **2**

- 1 Gala apple
- 8 to 10 small red radishes
- 4 scallions, finely chopped
- Juice of 1 lime
- ½ tsp extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup chopped cilantro
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Slice the apple into 4 sections around the core. Cut one section into very thin slices, then stack the slices and cut them horizontally into thin 1"-long matchsticks. Repeat for each section, slicing the rest of the apple. Cut the radishes into very thin slices, then stack the slices and cut them horizontally into matchsticks, matching the size of the apple matchsticks.

In a medium bowl, combine the sliced apple, radishes, scallions, lime juice, olive oil, cilantro and a pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper. Toss to coat. Place the bowl in the refrigerator to chill for 30 minutes. Before serving, season the slaw with additional salt and pepper to taste.

WATERCRESS, FETA & FARRO SALAD

COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | SERVES **4**

- 1 cup farro
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ tsp maple syrup
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 small watermelon radish, thinly sliced and chopped
- ⅓ cup dried tart cherries or cranberries
- ¼ cup crushed walnuts
- ⅓ cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 cups watercress or arugula
- 1 cup torn basil leaves
- ½ cup mint leaves

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the farro and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cook for 30 to 40 minutes, or until tender; drain and set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, apple cider vinegar, garlic and maple syrup; season to taste with salt and pepper.

Toss the cooked farro in a large bowl with the radish slices, cherries, walnuts, feta and vinaigrette. Add the watercress, basil and mint and gently toss again. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve.

Watercress, Feta & Farro SALAD

Spring Leek **SOUP** *With Purple Sage*

SPRING LEEK SOUP WITH PURPLE SAGE

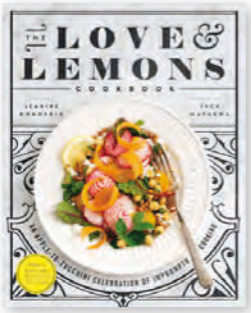
COOK TIME **40 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

4 leeks, white and light green parts only
2 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
2 Yukon Gold potatoes, chopped into ½" cubes
4 cloves garlic, minced
¼ cup loosely packed chopped purple sage
¼ cup dry white wine
4 cups vegetable broth
¼ cup loosely packed chopped thyme
1½ cups cooked cannellini beans
1 to 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
Traditional pesto, for serving (optional)
Crusty bread, for serving

Slice the leeks into rings. Place the rings in a strainer; rinse thoroughly with cool water.

Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the leeks and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until the leeks begin to soften, about 2 minutes. Add the potatoes and another few generous pinches of salt and cook until the potatoes begin to soften, about 2 minutes. Add the garlic and sage and continue cooking for 1 more minute. Stir in the white wine and cook for 1 minute. Add the vegetable broth and thyme. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook until the potatoes are tender, about 18 minutes, adding the cannellini beans during the last 5 minutes of cooking time.

Stir in the lemon juice, then taste and adjust the seasonings, adding more salt and pepper as desired. Serve with dollops of the pesto on top and crusty bread on the side.



To see more of Jeanine Donofrio's delicious vegetarian recipes, check out The Love & Lemons Cookbook *(Penguin Canada, $35), which hits bookstores March 29.*

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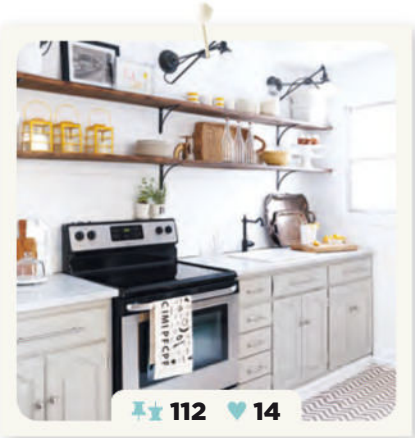

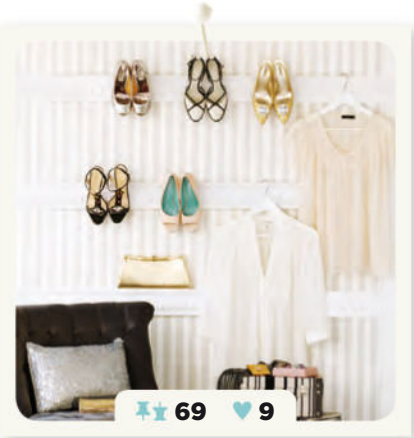

This month it's all about: ORGANIZING SOLUTIONS

There's something so innately satisfying about stepping into a well-ordered space. Whether it's creating perfectly styled open shelves or displaying beautiful boxes that conceal everyday items, quick updates like these help declutter the mind and refresh the senses.

Follow our boards at **PINTEREST.COM/STYLEATHOME** and re-pin your favourite images.

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